

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 are pending in the application.

Claim 1 has been amended in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicant regards as his invention. It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated **December 19, 2002**.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC §103

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshioka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,909,688) in view of Nguyen (U.S. Patent No. 6,202,070).

Yoshioka et al. describes an information management system for managing related information items in a process control schedule. A database (7) is used to store information related to offices, departments, personnel, tasks, budgets, workflow, and reports. Pointers are utilized to link related pieces of information.

Nguyen describes a method of manufacturing personal computers and particularly to custom installation of software for each given computer. Each personal computer is effectively a custom-built machine in which the customer can specify certain hardware and software components to be installed on each machine. The system is able to configure the proper operating system, device drivers and applications required by each individual machine based upon customer requirements.

The prior art relied upon does not disclose or suggest that the manufacturing machine is a tooling machine used in an industrial manufacturing facility for production purposes. Further, the prior art relied upon does not disclose or suggest that the machine information includes maintenance

information taken after initial start up of the manufacturing machine in the industrial manufacturing facility.

Independent claim 1 patentably distinguishes over the prior art relied upon, by reciting,

"An information management system for manufacturing machines comprising; a database that manages input and output in addition to memory of individual machine information, which is a body of information concerning each manufacturing machine as products of a company, said individual machine information including parts books, drawings and documents that cover designing, procurement and production, as well as wishes of customers obtained before designing in addition to maintenance information obtained after the start of the operation of the manufacturing machine in an industrial manufacturing facility; an information processing means for each of said company departments; and an access means that is installed in each of said information processing means which is capable of performing addition and updating of said individual machine information, wherein each manufacturing machine is a tooling machine used in the industrial manufacturing facility for production." (Emphasis Added)

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1-3 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshioka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,909,688) in view of Nguyen (U.S. Patent No. 6,202,070) is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claim 1, as amended, is in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to claim 1 by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: Version with markings to show changes made

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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) An information management system for manufacturing machines comprising;
a database that manages input and output in addition to memory of individual machine
information, which is a body of information concerning each manufacturing machine as products of a
company, said individual machine information including parts books, drawings and documents that
cover designing, procurement and production, as well as wishes of customers obtained before
designing in addition to maintenance information obtained after the start of the operation of the
manufacturing machine in an industrial manufacturing facility;

an information processing means for each of said company departments; and

an access means that is installed in each of said information processing means which is
capable of performing addition and updating of said individual machine information, wherein each
manufacturing machine is a tooling machine used in the industrial manufacturing facility for
production.